



KODIAK AREA SUBSISTENCE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Afognak Lake sockeye salmon run appears to be very weak. Approximately 11,769 sockeye salmon have migrated upstream past the Litnik weir counting station, while the desired escapement for this date should range from 15,598 to 38,995. It is not expected that the Afognak Lake lower escapement goal for sockeye salmon (20,000) will be achieved. There will be no commercial salmon fishing in this area (the Southeast Afognak Section remains closed), and the sport fishery for sockeye salmon will be closed.

In an effort to conserve Afognak Lake sockeye salmon, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board will close much of Afognak Bay to subsistence fishing for salmon.

Effective at 12:01 AM Saturday July 1, 2006, the following area will close to the subsistence harvest of salmon, until 12:01 AM Tuesday August 1, 2006:

Afognak Bay: all waters of Afognak Bay inside of a line from Settlement Point (58° 03.00' N lat., 152° 43.70' W long.) to Otrubistoi Point (58° 02.00' N lat., 152° 45.50' W long.)

Sockeye salmon escapement into the Afognak Lake system will continue to be monitored daily. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunities may be adjusted based on changes in the run strength. If the Afognak Lake sockeye salmon run improves, this subsistence fishing restriction could be lifted to provide additional opportunity.

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The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages sport, commercial, personal use, and state subsistence harvest on all lands and waters throughout Alaska. However, the Federal Subsistence Board assures a subsistence priority for rural residents as provided by Title VIII of ANILCA.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing.

This news release and fishery restriction has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

